Dedication of Granite Memorial commemorating the "Bridgewater" purchase from Massasoit in 1649, under the auspices of the OLD BRIDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY, at Sachem's Rock on the Hall estate, East Bridgewater, Mass. on Saturday, September 14, 1957 at 2:00 P.M.

—PROGRAM—

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Attorney JOHN B. THORNDIKE

OPENING MARCH — "The Thunderer"

By John Philip Souza

By the East Bridgewater High School Band

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

INVOCATION

By REV. JAMES M. WORKMAN

Pastor, East Bridgewater Congregational Church

MUSIC SINGING — "America the Beautiful"

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

By MR. GEORGE M. RIDDER

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen of East Bridgewater

RESPONSE

By LAURIST W. REYNOLDS

President of the Old Bridgewater Historical Society

GREETINGS FROM THE CITY OF BROCKTON

(Formerly North Bridgewater)

By His Honor MAYOR HJALMER PETERSON

MUSIC — Band

GREETINGS

By LEO F. NOURSE

Chairman of County Commissioners of Plymouth

GREETINGS

By WILLIAM NOYES

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen of West Bridgewater

GREETINGS

By MR. HARRY P. DUNN

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen of Bridgewater

PROGRAM—Continued

MUSIC — Band

READING OF THE OLD DEED
By ATTORNEY THORNDIKE

INTRODUCTION OF MR. LOUIS STEARNS who will impersonate Myles Standish and unveil the Memorial Marker assisted by MR. RUSSELL GARDNER who will impersonate Massasoit.
By ATTORNEY THORNDIKE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION
By REV. WILLIAM LORD MCKINNEY

MUSIC — Band, "America"
The audience will join in singing.

BENEDICTION
REV. WILLIAM LORD MCKINNEY

MUSIC — Band

THE GREAT MASSASOIT

PROTECTOR AND PRESERVER

OF THE PILGRIMS

— ATTENTION —

The Old Bridgewater Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the services of all who have given their time and talent to make this occasion a success.

The Society also extends thanks to the Howard Lodge K. of P. of West Bridgewater for the loan of chairs for this event.

LAURIST W. REYNOLDS, *President*

The Marker supplied and installed by L. G. Maver, 79 North Pearl St., Brockton, Mass.

SACHEM'S ROCK

A GREAT HISTORIC LANDMARK

Nature's rocks are imperishable memorials to the milestones of history. Snowshoe Rock in Maine marks the departing ice age that opened the region to human footsteps. The Forefathers' Rock at Plymouth marks an opening chapter in the story of our nation. It first received the feet of the Pilgrims, when on the stormy 11th of December 1620, Captain Myles Standish and nine companions stepped onto the boulder from the Mayflower's shallop to take shelter on shore.

This rock that is now being honored by the Old Bridgewater Historical Society, according to tradition, saw the beginning of another pregnant chapter of history. On March 23, 1649, four men stood upon it in fateful conference. One of them was Captain Standish, who had clambered up the rock at Plymouth twenty-nine years before. Standish, with two companions, Constant Southworth and William Nash, had made his way inland from Duxbury and, following the course of the Nunkatest stream (Taunton river) came to the rock called by the Indians Wonnocooto.

Here the sturdy trio met the friendly Sachem of Pokanoket, Massasoit. Standish had conversed with the great Sagamore before moving to Duxbury, when the Plymouth community drew up its first treaty of peace with the Indians on Watson's Hill. Now he and his companions had come with powers from the Old Colony Court in Plymouth to negotiate for Duxbury the purchase of a tract in the low-lying fertile region between the coast and the Bay Settlement at Taunton. It was the colony's first attempt at inland settlement, the beginning of an expansion that soon was to reach continental proportions.

The transaction was completed then and there. The deed, written by Standish himself, was discovered long years afterward among the papers of Judge Nahum Mitchell, Bridgewater's historian, and is now in the care of the Old Bridgewater Historical Society.

The marker, placed on the rock this 14th day of September 1957, tells of the deal and the seven coats, nine hatchets, eight hoes, twenty knives, four moose skins and ten and a half yards of cotton paid for nearly one hundred square miles of the Satucket region. This became known as the Duxburrow New Plantation, and then, Bridgewater, and then was divided up into the three Bridgewaters, Brockton, Abington, Rockland, and part of Hanson.

Massasoit, who signed the deed with the drawing of a hand, used his later name of Ousamequin. In his honor the outcrop is known as Sachem's Rock.

Another marker more particularly appreciative of Massasoit's friendship toward and loyalty to the whites is being erected in front of the new East Bridgewater High School, as a permanent memorial to his name.

HENRY SOWERBY

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